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Pender County

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Annual Report

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1966

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
Burgaw, North Carolina

F O R E W O R D

ASCS is an organization developed for the purpose of achieving the greatest possible protection and improvement of the natural resources of the farms of our nation. The goal of this organization at all times is to assure the farmers a fair share of the national income. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program is a farmer's program, adapted to farmers' needs.

To administer this program successfully the cooperation of the farmer is needed, in addition to the united efforts of the National Office, State Office, and County Office. The County ASCS Office is responsible for field administration and keeping the farmers informed of all changes in the administration of the program.

The office personnel of the Pender County ASCS are happy to give to the farmers, businessmen, and all interested persons of Pender County, a summary of our ASCS activities for the year of 1966. This report is prepared for the purpose of familiarizing the public with programs which the ASCS administers, and some of the accomplishments of each program.

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A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender County ASCS Office in 1966 included the Agricultural Conservation Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Cropland Adjustment Program, Cropland Conversion Program, the Price Support Programs, Production Adjustment Program, and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the state level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices known as farmer-fieldmen serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of managers who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a 3-man committee to serve for the entire county, and a 3-man committee to serve for each ASCS community in the county. Pender County consists of 15 communities.

The County Committee and community committeemen are called upon continuously to furnish assistance on farm problems to their neighbors although they receive compensation for the actual time worked in an official capacity.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

The purpose of the county committee is to direct the administration of all ASCS programs, inclusive, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the Sugar Act of 1948, the Soil Bank Act and any amendments to such Acts, and such other acts of Congress as the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress may designate. The county committee is assisted by the community committee and other personnel employed by the county committee in carrying out the duties of ASCS.

People elected community committeemen elect each year the county committee composed of three regular members and two alternate members.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

Jack M. Woodcock	Chairman
DeLeon Fennell	Vice-Chairman
Roy M. Thomas	Regular Member

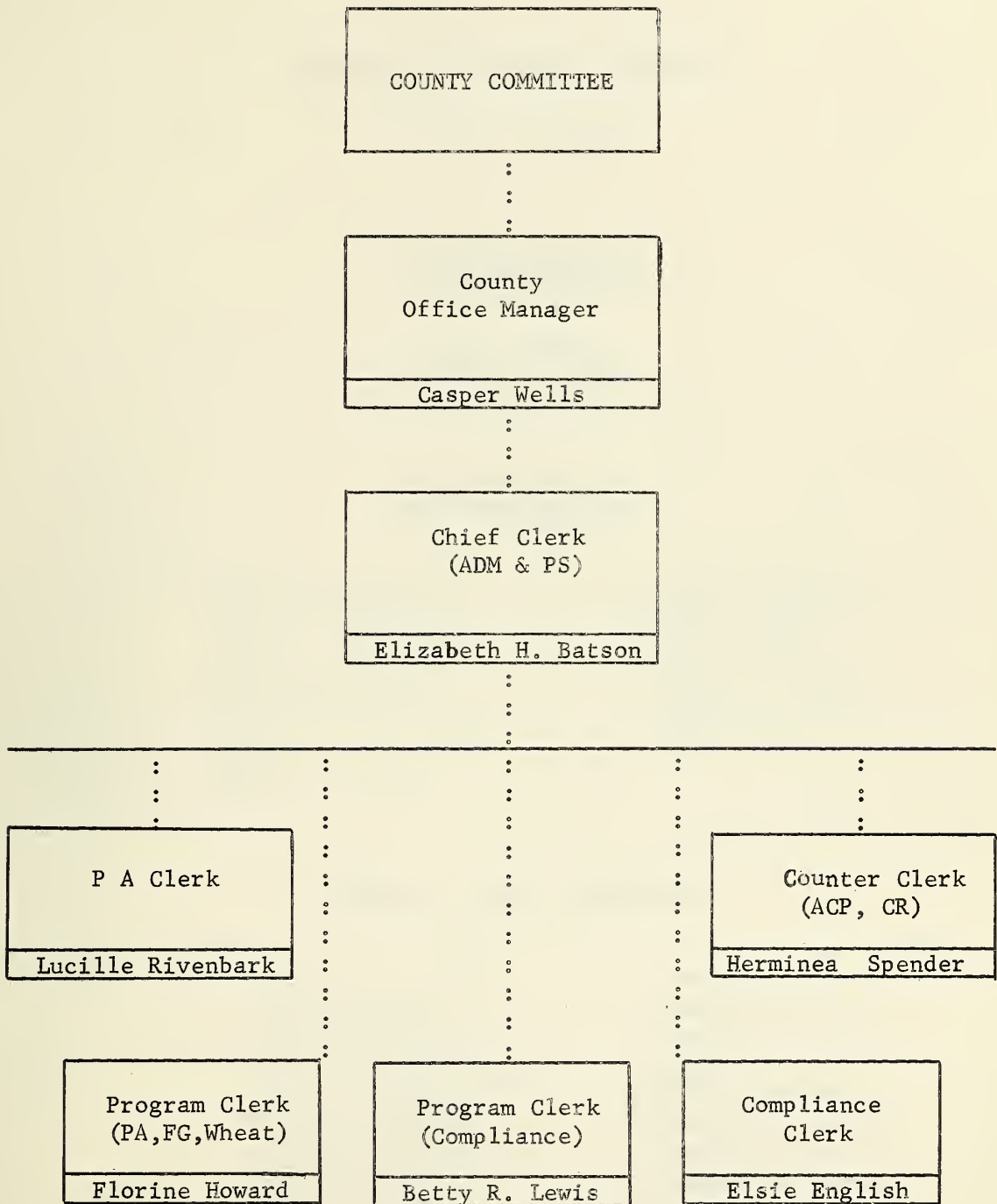
A L T E R N A T E S

W. C. Heath	First Alternate
Paul Wells	Second Alternate

D I S T R I C T F A R M E R F I E L D M A N

J. N. Bryan, Jr.

PENDER COUNTY ASCS ORGANIZATION



C O M P L I A N C E S U P E R V I S O R

Floyd W. Dale

A S S I S T A N T C O M P L I A N C E S U P E R V I S O R

Lawrence Chadwick

F I E L D A S S I S T A N T S

Billy W. Savage
Howard N. Walker

R E P O R T E R S

Albert R. Anderson	John E. Martin
Ronald Chadwick	Willie Merritt, Jr.
Connell Cunningham	Jimmy Murphy
Gordon L. Futch, Jr.	James Mac Taylor
Donald Ray Henry	Howard N. Walker
Edward Allen James	Eugene Wells
William Henry Jordan	Joseph Lee Williams
Willie E. McGee	

T E M P O R A R Y O F F I C E P E R S O N N E L

Sandra Gail Brown	Planimeter Clerk
Maxine Costin	Planimeter Clerk
Anna Louise Harris	Planimeter Clerk
Ruth C. Johnson	Planimeter Clerk
Goldie R. Marshall	Planimeter Clerk
Peggy E. Martin	Planimeter Clerk
Lizine V. Meredith	Planimeter Clerk
Frances Thompson	Planimeter Clerk
Edna S. Walker	Planimeter Clerk
Nellie L. Walker	Planimeter Clerk

1966 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

BURGAW UPPER

Thomas Cowan
S. J. Harrison
Baxter Wells

BURGAW LOWER

Wiley Batson
John Leimone
Marvin Robinson

CANETUCK

Earl Moore
Gordon Pridgen
Joe Flynn

CASWELL

M. F. Kelly, Jr.
James V. Eakins
E. A. Holley

COLUMBIA UPPER

Paul Wells
Billy Savage
Harry Gurganious

COLUMBIA LOWER

George Highsmith
David Kelly
A. C. Bond

GRADY

F. P. White, Sr.
M. L. Bell
H. M. Atkinson

HOLLY UPPER

Thurman Lanier
Jasper Pierce
Odell Noble

HOLLY LOWER

Arthur Sawyer
J. M. Ward
A. B. Anderson

LONG CREEK

Herbert Wagstaff
Thomas Peay
Lewis Rooks

ROCKY POINT

R. L. Batts
A. A. McLendon
James Miller

TOPSAIL UPPER

Woodie Batts
William Edens
Robert King

TOPSAIL LOWER

N. C. Thomas
T. W. Shingleton
Rupert Piver

UNION UPPER

Armenius Pigford
J. A. Farrior, Jr.
Leon K. Rawls

UNION LOWER

Oliver Pate
R. E. McCoy
C. T. Carr

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means of making this Federal Cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Productive soil, adequate water, and well-managed woodland are the very foundation of American agriculture. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means through which all our people including farmers, share the costs of conserving these essential national resources. This program increases the rate of application of the research, education, technical, credit, and other services of the Department of Agriculture in actual accomplishment of essential conservation work on the land.

Pender County's allocation for the 1966 AC Program was \$34,257. Of this amount, \$1,970 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, \$168 to the Forest Service to pay for the technical services performed for the Pender County AC Program. The farmers used approximately \$34,041, which represents 512 farms taking advantage of the AC assistance.

	No. Farms Participating	No. of Units	Amount of Assistance
Permanent Cover - Other	120	389	7,992
Liming Materials	131	840	6,572
Tree Planting - Forest	3	22	317
Forest Stand Improvement	2	19	235
Open Drainage	32	301	5,377
Enclosed Drains	19	72	3,025
Winter Cover	221	1,669	3,919
Summer Cover	36	338	682

Number of farms..... 375

COMPLIANCE

Compliance is one of the most important functions of ASCS. In 1966, a new method of compliance was initiated in 35 counties in North Carolina, including Pender. This new method was known as Compliance by Certification by the Farm Operator. All farmers who had allotment crops or were participating in any of the farm programs were required to determine their acreage and report them to their local ASCS office during the specified period. May 31 was the final date for wheat and June 20 for other crops and land uses in Pender County.

Regulations require that a minimum of 10 percent of the tobacco farms be measured and minimum of 25 percent of other crops and land uses. Also, all farms operated by County and Community Committeemen and office personnel were required to be measured.

Before measurement can be started, reporters have to be secured and thoroughly trained. For the compliance activities for 1966, a total of 18 reporters were employed.

DATA FOR 1966

Staking and Referencing Service 456 farms

Measurement Service 37 farms

REGULAR COMPLIANCE WHICH WAS PERFORMED

Name of Crop	No. of farms that Certified	No. of farms measured
Wheat-Feed Grain	1,005	251
Cotton	98	27
Flue-cured Tobacco	1,178	148
Peanuts	203	51

CONSERVATION RESERVE

GENERAL

ASC committees administer the remaining phase of the soil bank program - the Conservation Reserve Program. This consists of servicing existing contracts, since 1960 was the last year of accepting additional land under the program.

This program was designed to retire cropland from production for a period of years and to conserve and build soil. It was installed as a temporary measure to store up potential productive resources that will be badly needed in a few years and to help reduce the temporary surpluses in certain commodities. Through the program, farmers are paid an annual payment of the acreage put in reserve and also receive payment for part of the cost of putting the land to a conservation use. A producer signed a three, five, or ten year contract.

If a satisfactory cover crop was growing on the land designated as the conservation reserve, it could be signed up for a three year period. However, if it was necessary for the Government to assist the producer in establishing a satisfactory cover crop, the minimum number of years he might place the land in the conservation reserve was five. If he desired to plant trees, it was necessary for him to sign a ten-year contract.

In addition to the objective of assisting in controlling the production of specific agricultural commodities determined to be in surplus supply, this program has as its further objective to conserve our natural resources and provide farmers an opportunity to place all of their eligible cropland in this program and retire or seek off-the-farm employment.

Some of these contracts expire each year through 1969, with the largest expirations at the end of 1964 and 1968.

The following is a cumulative total of the Conservation Reserve Program in Pender County for the years 1956 through 1966.

<u>Number of Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Annual Payments</u>
78	2,743	\$ 34,503

Cumulative total of practices for the years 1956 through 1966.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>
A-2 Permanent Cover	247
A-7 Forestry Tree Cover	2,774
Natural Cover	1,090
	<hr/>
Total	4,111

I N F O R M A T I O N

Public relations is a very important phase of our work and we are ever conscious of the good that can be accomplished through public relations.

During the year of 1966, in addition to directly administering the farm programs of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Pender County ASCS Office has endeavored to tell the people what we have done, how we have done it, why it was necessary and what benefits have been obtained. The county committee, community committeemen, and office personnel do everything within their power to keep all farmers currently advised on the programs administered by ASCS.

During the year of 1966, the Pender County ASCS Office mailed out newsletters, made spot announcements over Radio Station WPGF, Burgaw, and presented TV programs over Station WECT TV in Wilmington. In addition, the Pender Chronicle published 62 news releases in 1966.

By endeavoring to maintain good public relations, we feel that we have accomplished one of our main objectives.

PRICE SUPPORT

Government price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining a fair price for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing.

ASCS county offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans, as well as enter into purchase agreements with eligible producers of grains.

The price support program on cotton is carried out by ASCS through the making of warehouse stored loans to eligible producers. In the absence of warehouse space, ASCS may make loans on farm-stored cotton.

A loan program on farm-stored cottonseed is available through ASCS county offices to eligible farmers. A purchase program is also available for direct purchases from producers and for purchases from participating ginner.

Peanut support is available through loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers and also through direct loans to peanut producers. All work in connection with loans which are made direct to farmers is done by State and county ASC committeemen.

Tobacco support is available through tobacco loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers which, in turn, make advances to eligible producers either directly or through auction warehouses.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY AND MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

Since 1949 ASCS county offices have operated a loan program on storage and drying equipment. To help farmers to provide for storing commodities to be placed under price support, loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and mobile drying equipment. Under these loans farmers can borrow up to 85 percent of the cost of new storage bins, excluding the cost of erection, and up to 95 percent of the delivered and assembled cost of mobile drying equipment. Loans on farm storage facilities are repayable in four equal annual installments and loans on dryers are repayable in three equal annual installments. These loans bear interest at the rate of 4 percent per annum.

SUMMARY OF FARM STORAGE FACILITY AND MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1966

December 31, 1966

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

1. Number of loans disbursed during period	<u>26</u>
2. Capacity of loans during period	<u>110,193</u>
3. Amount of loans disbursed during period	<u>\$ 41,813.96</u>

MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

1. Number of loans disbursed during period	<u>22</u>
2. Amount of loans disbursed during period	<u>\$ 20,749.10</u>

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The Act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice. Prior to 1959, the Act also permitted acreage allotments on corn. However, as a result of the Agricultural Act of 1958 and a vote by farmers in the commercial corn area, acreage allotments and a commercial corn producing area were not established for 1959 and subsequent crops of corn.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotments are required by law for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas are administered as follows:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture determines the amount of cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat or rice needed and proclaims this as the quota or allotment.
2. This amount is divided among the states and counties generally on the basis of the past history of growing the commodity.
3. Each farmer receives his share of the national quotas as an acreage allotment based on the production history of the farm.
4. The crop planted on the farm is measured to determine whether or not the farmer is within his allotment.
5. A marketing card is issued to identify the commodity when the farmer goes to market.

T O B A C C O

Pender County had 1632 farms in 1966 with an established flue-cured tobacco allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 2781.80 acres. There was no change in the allotment for 1966.

There were only 1183 of our farms harvesting tobacco in 1966.

We had only one farmer in Pender County who filed an application for a new grower allotment for tobacco for the year 1966. This farmer did not meet with eligibility requirements for a new grower allotment and therefore no allotment was approved for the farm.

The lease and transfer program for tobacco was still in effect for 1966. A written request signed by all interested parties had to be filed with the county committee by April 1, 1966. We had 449 farmers who took advantage of this lease and transfer program in 1966, leasing a total of 531.87 acres, and 898,981 pounds, of which 473.12 acres were transferred to 276 farms. This resulted in a loss of 58.75 acres due to the difference in the normal yields between the farms.

The Acreage-Poundage Program approved by growers in a referendum in May, 1965, was still in effect for the 1966 crop year. Under this program a farmer is limited to the pounds established for his farm as well as the acreage allotted. Each farm had a marketing quota established for his farm based on the yields for his farm for the five years 1959-63. The total pounds for our county for 1966 was 5,003,511 pounds.

Under the Acreage-Poundage Program if all the pounds are not sold, the farm receives credit for this undermarketing and this can be sold the next year. We had 422,725 pounds undermarketed in 1966. On the other hand, a farm was allowed to sell up to 10 percent above the established marketing quota if he desired. This overmarketing is taken from the marketing quota for the next year. We had 119,119 pounds overmarketed in 1966.

There was one farm remaining in excess of the allotment for the year 1966. This farm did not receive any price support for the tobacco sold in 1966.

C O T T O N

In 1966 we had 121 farms with a cotton allotment, as compared to 147 farms in 1965. Total allotment on these farms was 278.8 acres. Our cotton allotments have been reduced both in size and in number of farms due to our farmers failing to plant. According to the cotton marketing quota regulations, farmers must plant or release their cotton each year in order to maintain their full allotment.

The following is a summary of the Release and Reapportionment of cotton in our county for 1966:

Number of farms releasing allotments.....	8
Total acreage released.....	16.0
No. of farms receiving released acreage.....	1
Total acreage reapportioned in county.....	1.0
Acreage surrendered to State Committee.....	15.0
Total acreage released on CR farms.....	7.7

There was a Cotton Domestic Allotment Program available to farmers in 1966. Farmers were eligible to receive a price support payment by signing up to participate in this program. The price support payment was paid to farmers for the cotton they had planted. We had 88 producers to sign up under this program. They received a total payment of \$7212.00.

We did not have any cotton farms remaining in excess of their allotment in 1966.

A Cotton Referendum was held on November 23, 1965, to determine whether farmers favored marketing quotas for the 1966 crop of cotton. Quotas were approved in the referendum and therefore were in effect for the 1966 crop. There were 64 of our farmers who voted in the referendum. Of these, only two voted against marketing quotas for the 1966 crop. Fifty percent of our eligible producers voted in the referendum. Also, in this referendum farmers voted against transferring cotton allotments outside the county.

P E A N U T S

For the year 1966 we had 210 farms with an established peanut allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 1289.6 acres. The average size peanut allotment was 6.0 acres. Although peanuts are an allotted crop, any producer may plant up to 1.0 acre without being penalized, providing he does not share in peanuts on any other farm. We had 56 farmers to take advantage of this privilege in 1966, planting a total of 48.2 acres of peanuts.

If a producer does not want to plant his peanuts he can release them to the county committee to be reapportioned to other farms in the county. The following is a summary of the release and reapportionment of peanuts in our county for 1966:

Number of farms releasing allotments	13
Total acreage released	40.5
No. farms receiving released acreage.....	37
Total acreage reapportioned in county.....	40.5

We did not have any requests for a 1966 new grower peanut allotment.

Peanuts are considered one of the basic cash crops in our county. In 1966, there were 871.1 acres of peanuts harvested. Total production from this acreage was 1,111,954 pounds, resulting in a yield per acre of 1276 pounds. This compares with a yield of 1251 pounds per acre in 1965.

On November 23, 1965, a referendum was held to determine whether farmers favored marketing quotas for the 1966, 1967, and 1968 crop of peanuts. Quotas were approved. There were 69 of our farmers who voted in the referendum. This represented thirty-three percent of the eligible peanut producers in the county.

W H E A T

Pender County had 325 farms with an established wheat allotment for the year 1966. The total allotment for these farms was 931.0 acres.

Marketing quotas were not in effect for the 1966 crop of wheat. Therefore, farmers could plant as much wheat as they wanted without paying penalty on wheat planted above the wheat allotment established for their farm.

We did not have any producers requesting new grower wheat allotments for the year 1966.

The 1966 Wheat Program was a voluntary program whereby the farmers who produced an acreage of wheat within their farm allotment could divert acreage from wheat to approved conservation uses, in addition to the farm's normal conserving base.

The principal objectives were: (1) To raise the income of wheat growers; (2) To avoid increases in the government costs of wheat programs; (3) To maintain the costs of wheat to flour millers and other processors at a level which will not increase the price of bread to consumers; and (4) To enable the United States to participate in the International Wheat Agreement.

Pender County had 110 with effective allotments of 337.0 acres participating in the 1966 Wheat Program. These farms diverted 221.0 acres, with diversion payments of \$3394.00. Price support payments of \$2075.00 were paid to 8 farms for planting 51.0 acres of wheat.

FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The 1966 Feed Grain Program provided for the voluntary reduction of feed grains -- corn, grain sorghum, barley and wheat.

The objectives of the program were: (1) Decrease feed grain production; (2) Stabilize and increase farm income; and (3) Increase cropland acreage devoted to conserving uses.

Below is a summary of data on participating farms in Pender County:

	Corn	Barley	Grain Sorghum
Participating farms	981	7	6
Base Acreage	12,135	44	54
Diverted Acreage	8,605	23	23
Diversion Payments Earned	343,595	475	509
No. Farms Earning Price Support	270	1	1
Acreage Earning P.S. Payments	2,293	4	5
Price Support Payments	43,079	32	50

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Cropland Adjustment Program began in 1966, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with farmers to divert cropland normally used for the production of feed grain, allotment and non-allotment crops to conserving and recreational uses.

The period of agreement is for 5 to 10 years. Farmers may receive cost-share payments for establishing an approved conservation or recreation practice. Annual adjustment payments are made each October for acreage placed under agreement.

The designated acreage must be maintained for the duration of the agreements to prevent erosion and control weeds and insects. No crops may be planted for harvest or harvested on the designated acreage. All allotment crops and feed grain bases for the farm under agreement must be in compliance as well as all other farms in which the producer has an interest.

In 1966, Pender County had 56 contracts signed amounting to \$50,490.00.

CROPLAND CONVERSION PROGRAM

The Cropland Conversion Program began in 1966, with the same rules and regulations as the Cropland Adjustment Program, except that the farmer may graze the designated acreage with a reduction in the annual adjustment payment.

In 1966, Pender County had 5 contracts signed with payments amounting to \$10,791.00.

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office Personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work and our many problems.

Our District Fieldman, Mr. J. N. Bryan, Jr., for his helpfulness, patience, and understanding.

Community committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Radio Station WPGF and TV Station WECT for their cooperation and coverage of our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our program a success.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully and generously.

And last but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender County for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1966. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS office and farmers of Pender County are unmatched.

Pender County ASC Committee

and Office Personnel

